

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1547 - SB 1793

January 20, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to adopt policies that treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint in the same manner that an LEA would treat the voluntary expression of a secular viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject. Prohibits LEAs from discriminating against a student on the basis of the expression of a religious viewpoint. Requires LEAs to adopt policies that prohibit religious discrimination. Requires LEAs to have a limited public forum at certain events for the expression of students' religious viewpoints, if any. Authorizes students to express their beliefs, if any, in classroom assignments and prohibits discrimination against such expression. Authorizes students to organize prayer groups or similar religious gatherings to the same extent that other non-curricular groups are permitted to organize. Sets forth a model policy that LEAs may adopt that meets the student religious non-discrimination requirements of the bill. Requires LEAs to adopt and implement policies beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- LEAs continually revise and make new policy. This policy will be established in the normal course of LEA revisions and meetings without a significant increase in local expenditures.
- No fiscal impact on state expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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